

Scattered Precipitation

Five days were suitable for fieldwork during the week ending October 24, according to the USDA-NASS-Michigan Statistical Office. Cloudy skies, near normal temperatures and scattered showers covered most of the State during the week. Even with the damp weather, farmers were able to make progress on their fall tasks. The cloud cover limited crop dry down, but did help moderate temperatures. Averages ranged from 2 degrees below normal in the central and southwest Lower Peninsula to 1 degree above normal in the west central Lower Peninsula. Precipitation was highly variable across the State. Most areas were dry enough that any rainfall received was welcomed, even though it delayed harvest and fall tillage. Precipitation amounts ranged from 0.26 inches in the southeast Lower Peninsula to 1.47 inches in the west central Lower Peninsula. A farmer in the southeast noted, “The weather was cool and cloudy all week, with rain at the end of the week. Harvest continued, except when moisture prohibited it.” A grower on the other side of the State, in the southwest, commented, “Yields are a pleasant surprise. Let’s hope for another couple weeks of good weather to finish up harvesting.”

Field Crops

Wet weather across the State last week slowed harvesting for some farmers, rain did restore moisture in the soil. **Soybean** harvest continued for some producers, but for others, wet weather put a halt on harvesting. **Corn** harvested for silage was completed. Corn harvest for seed and grain was ongoing. High moisture remains a major concern with the corn crop. Farmers were still waiting for corn to dry down. The weather was excellent for **sugarbeet** harvest. Harvest continued, at a rapid pace. **Dry bean** harvest was completed. **Winter wheat** planting neared completion.

Soil moisture for week ending 10/24/04

Stratum	Very short	Short	Adequate	Surplus
	Percent	Percent	Percent	Percent
Topsoil	7	28	62	3
Subsoil	13	37	48	2

Crop condition for week ending 10/24/04

Crop	Very poor	Poor	Fair	Good	Excellent
	Percent	Percent	Percent	Percent	Percent
Corn	3	11	30	35	21
Pasture	6	22	43	22	7
Winter Wheat	4	11	46	34	5

Fruit

Growers finished harvesting **apples** in the south. In the Ridge area, growers were finishing up late season varieties such as Ida Red and Red Delicious.

Vegetables

Harvest of late season vegetable crops continued. **Potato** harvest was ongoing. Although cool temperatures limited digging over the week, some areas were nearing completion. **Carrot** harvest continued, with progress about on par with average. **Pumpkin** harvest moved along. A fair amount of the crop was still in the field. Processing **squash** harvest was underway in the west central.

Crop progress for week ending 10/24/04

Crop	This week	Last week	Last year	5-year average
	Percent	Percent	Percent	Percent
All hay, fourth cutting	80	73	73	76
Apples, harvested	88	82	NA	NA
Corn, mature	94	90	96	97
Corn, harvested	34	19	24	39
Potatoes, harvested	95	80	NA	NA
Soybeans, dropping leaves	98	94	100	99
Soybeans, harvested	65	52	83	71
Sugarbeets, harvested	36	9	62	57
Winter wheat, planted	93	84	89	90
Winter wheat, emerged	56	40	55	59

Michigan Weather Summary for Week Ending 10/24/04 ¹												
Station	Temperature			Cumulative growing degree days ²			Precipitation					
	Maximum	Minimum	Departure from normal	2004	2003	Normal	This week	Last two weeks	Last four weeks	Since April 1	Normal	
											Since April 1	For month
Ironwood	63	30		1,943	2,169		1.10	1.62	3.13	22.21		
Marquette	59	31		1,846	2,074		0.90	1.88	3.04	21.92		
Stephenson	59	30		2,217	2,396		2.19	2.56	4.48	22.23		
Western UP	63	27	0	1,957	2,153	2,022	1.18	1.68	3.22	20.24	21.93	2.57
Cornell	56	30		1,945	2,272		1.16	2.82	4.56	23.21		
Sault St Marie	55	30		1,677	1,996		1.32	2.99	4.75	22.10		
Eastern UP	58	24	-1	1,718	2,003	1,775	1.03	2.18	3.96	20.35	21.04	2.57
Beulah	62	36		2,284	2,365		1.51	2.67	3.75	24.21		
Lake City	59	33		2,205	2,223		0.97	1.82	2.95	20.35		
Old Mission	59	33		2,208	2,346		1.18	2.84	3.95	22.52		
Pellston	57	28		2,091	2,225		0.79	2.05	4.02	19.28		
Northwest	62	28	0	2,142	2,250	2,319	0.99	2.25	3.53	20.80	20.35	2.75
Alpena	56	31		2,179	2,208		0.57	1.58	2.64	17.71		
Houghton Lake	59	29		2,312	2,351		0.42	1.02	2.99	19.22		
Rogers City	58	33		2,188	2,317		0.55	1.54	2.75	20.34		
Northeast	61	29	-1	2,207	2,317	2,239	0.57	1.43	2.72	18.91	19.97	2.40
Fremont	63	33		2,562	2,673		1.52	1.91	3.28	20.76		
Hart	65	33		2,417	2,510		1.39	1.96	3.45	22.79		
Muskegon	65	33		2,590	2,778		1.84	2.18	3.40	23.98		
West Central	65	33	1	2,482	2,592	2,538	1.47	2.05	3.32	23.77	20.54	2.94
Alma	61	33		2,677	2,692		1.03	1.46	2.56	23.69		
Big Rapids	61	33		2,500	2,464		1.45	1.91	3.91	24.10		
Central	61	33	-2	2,615	2,576	2,622	1.20	1.61	2.87	23.00	21.08	2.59
Bad Axe	58	38		2,491	2,389		0.00	0.95	1.58	19.63		
Pigeon	58	36		2,467	2,383		0.17	0.95	1.34	20.42		
Saginaw	61	33		2,707	2,645		0.33	0.96	1.51	18.69		
Standish	60	34		2,440	2,353		0.36	0.80	1.52	19.44		
East Central	61	33	0	2,487	2,459	2,638	0.27	1.01	1.63	19.96	18.83	2.41
Fennville	65	36		2,641	2,664		1.24	1.82	2.01	16.18		
Grand Rapids	64	35		2,927	2,753		1.53	2.51	3.89	25.70		
Holland	65	34		2,734	2,744		1.62	2.30	3.53	19.14		
South Bend, IN	67	37		3,090	2,954		0.49	1.00	1.77	24.99		
Watervliet	65	35		2,823	2,697		0.82	1.96	2.93	26.45		
Southwest	68	33	-2	2,828	2,773	2,887	1.09	1.93	3.00	24.26	21.94	2.99
Belding	63	33		2,668	2,622		0.85	1.21	3.00	25.18		
Coldwater	61	34		2,751	2,552		0.77	1.35	3.15	24.94		
Lansing	63	37		2,796	2,714		0.40	1.12	1.60	23.49		
South Central	66	32	-1	2,790	2,723	2,832	0.48	1.25	2.11	24.02	21.09	2.41
Detroit	61	38		3,124	3,014		0.28	0.47	0.79	20.66		
Flint	61	30		2,840	2,835		0.11	0.50	1.11	19.63		
Romeo	59	29		2,816	2,651		0.35	1.62	2.36	25.40		
Tipton	61	33		2,810	2,691		0.29	1.24	2.16	20.22		
Toledo, OH	63	31		3,157	3,034		0.45	1.82	2.30	19.67		
Southeast	63	29	-1	2,866	2,837	2,830	0.26	1.19	1.85	21.94	20.06	2.33

¹ Issued by the Federal/State Michigan Agricultural Statistics Service in cooperation with the U.S. Department of Commerce, Michigan State University's Cooperative Extension Service, Agricultural Meteorologist, Department of Geography, and Crop Advisory Team ALERTS.

² Growing degree days (GDD) is the sum of daily mean temperatures minus 50 per day, 86 maximum and 50 minimum. The GDD is accumulative from April 1.

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